

Families, Children, and Elders Committee

Honorable Kenneth Kurtz , Committee Chair
Honorable Margaret E. O'Brien , Majority Vice-Chair
Honorable Gail Haines
Honorable Kurt Heise
Honorable Thomas B. Hooker
Honorable Bruce R. Rendon
Honorable Dian Slavens
Honorable Marilyn Lane
Honorable Maureen L. Stapleton

March 27, 2012

Dear Chair Kurtz and Committee Members,

We write you today to urge you to not vote at this time to allow bills S-981 (1), S-914 (1), and S-915(1) out of committee today in their current form for many reasons. As a family, an entire family, affected by our son's autism, we feel these bills for the following reasons:

- They will not cover individuals age eighteen and older
- They allow continued discrimination by insurance companies for those not covered including Nicholas who is twenty years old and will use tax dollars in the incentive tie bar to do so. This is actually against our son's rights under the American with Disabilities Act as well as any other individual with a disability if you allow this tie bar bill to move forward to pay private business directly to continue discrimination and exclusion of coverage
- The bills do not allow for any treatments an individual with autism may need as deemed necessary by a treating medical professional

We do agree that autism insurance reform is needed , we have worked for over a decade to see this accomplished, these bills however are not representative of the autism community and have allowed no membership organization that serves individuals with autism daily in Michigan to be representative at the table within drafting these current bills. Additionally by not allowing coverage to individuals ages 18-26, the number being used by those in support of this bill as those it will assist, 15,000 in the public school system will be drastically reduced.

Your committee is one that is directed to meet the needs of families, children, and elders, if you allow these bills to go to vote in the form they currently are, you will not be meeting the needs of all of those populations.

We ask that you not allow our son, nor others eighteen and over to be unseen and invisible when considering his needs. We ask that you vote no on sending these bills in their amended forms to the full House for a vote.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any question
Lansing for this meeting due to the short notice on this hearing and the nature of our
employment.

Respectfully,

Andrew, Carolyn, Alexander, and Nicholas Gammicchia

***All registered voters.

Nicholas Gammicchia is in need of this coverage too and should not be allowed to be discriminated
against. He is not INVISIBLE.



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March 27, 2012

Dear Chair Kurtz and Committee Members,

I write you today to urge you to not vote at this time to allow bills S-981 (1), S-914 (1), and S-915(1) out of committee today in their current form because I am not invisible. I am an adult with Autism and this bill will exclude me from any treatment and therapies altogether. Autism is not just a childhood disability it affects people their entire lives. I am one of those people. I still need therapy and treatment to help me. Please rethink this and work on a better bill. Work on a bill that will serve everyone with Autism and not discriminate because of age.

Respectfully,

Nicholas Gammicchia, Registered Voter in Shelby Township

